

*The Comickall Historie of*

To urge the thing held as a ceremony :

*Nerrissa* teaches me what to beleewe,  
He die for't, but some woman had the Ring.

*Bass.* No by my honour Madam, by my soule  
No woman had it, but a Civill Doctor,  
Which did refuse three thousand Ducats of me,  
And begg'd the Ring, the which I did denie him,  
And suffered him to go displeas'd away,  
Even he that had held up the very life  
Of my deere friend. What should I say sweet Lady,  
I was inforc'd to send it after him,  
I was beset with shame and courtesie,  
My honour would not let ingratitude  
So much besmere it : pardon me good Lady,  
For by these blessed candles of the night,  
Had you been there, I thinke you would have begg'd  
The Ring of me to give the worthy Doctor.

*Por.* Let not that Doctor ere come nere my house,  
Since he hath got the jewell that I loved,  
And that which you did sweare to keepe for me,  
I will become as liberall as you,  
He not deny him any thing I have,  
No, not my body, nor my husbands bed :  
Know him I shall, I am well sure of it.  
Lie not a night from home. Watch me like *Argus*,  
If you do not, if I be left alone,  
Now by mine honour, Which is yet mine owne,  
He have that Doctor for my bedfellow.

*Ner.* And I his Clarke : therefore be well advis'd,  
How you do leave me to mine owne protection.

*Gra.* Well, do you so : let not me take him then,  
For if I do, He marre the young Clarks Pen.

*Anth.* I am the unhappy subject of these quarrels.

*Por.* Sir, grive not you, you are welcome notwithstanding.

*Bass.* *Portia*, forgive me this enforced wrong,  
And in the hearing of these many friends  
I sweare to thee, even by thine own faire eyes,  
Wherein I see my selfe.

*Por.* Marke

*the Merchant of Venice.*

*Por.* Marke you but that ;  
In both mine eyes he doubly sees himselfe :  
In each eye one, sweare by your double selfe,  
And there's an oath of credit.

*Bass.* Nay, but heare me :  
Pardon this fault, and by my soule I sweare  
I never more will breake an oath with thee.

*Anth.* I once did lend my body for his wealth,  
Which but for him that had your husbands Ring,  
Had quite miscarried. I dare be bound againe,  
My soule upon the forfeit, that your Lord  
Will never more breake faith advisedly.

*Por.* Then you shall be his surety : give him this,  
And bid him keep it better then the other.

*Anth.* Here Lord *Bassanio*, sweare to keep this Ring.

*Bass.* By heaven it is the same I gave the Doctor.

*Por.* I had it of him : pardon me *Bassanio*,  
For by this Ring the Doctor lay with me.

*Ner.* And pardon me my gentle *Gratiano*,  
For that same scrubbed boy the Doctors Clarke,  
In lieu of this, last night did lie with me.

*Gra.* Why, this is like the mending of highwayes  
In Sommer, where the wayes are faire enough.  
What, are we Cuckolds ere we have deserv'd it?

*Por.* Speake not so grossly, you are all amaz'd ;  
Here is a Letter, read it at your leasure,  
It comes from *Padua* from *Bellario*,  
There you shall find that *Portia* was the Doctor,  
*Nerrissa* there her Clarke. *Lorenzo* here  
Shall witness I set forth as soone as you,  
And even but now return'd : I have not yet  
Entred my house. *Antonio* you are welcome,  
And I have better newes in store for you,  
Then you expect : unseale this lester soone,  
There you shall find three of your Argosies,  
Are richly come to harbour sodainly.  
You shall not know by what strange accident  
I chanced on this Letter.

*Ant.*